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TALE AND SONG FROM VIRGINIA. — On the bank of the Rapidan River, near Germanna Bridge, Culpeper County, Virginia, I saw four fishermen; and after I landed from the canoe, in the course of talk, Walter Cottoms told the following tale, which he had heard in the neighborhood, and sang the following song, which had been composed, he said, by the sergeant of his company, on the eve of their departure from service in France.

There was a pore feller goin' over to see a girl, ridin' a pore mule. Two girls. In comes two more young fellers ridin' fat horses, to see this girl. They wanted to take this girl from this pore boy, so they thought they would play a trick on him by goin' out splittin' mule mouf open from year [ear] to year. Comes back again an' sit down, an' got to laughin'. Pore boy, he gets up an' goes out, find mule mouf split open. He goes to the boys' horses an' cuts the tail off, an' comes back in an' goes to the winder, an' gets to laughin'. Then they all goes to the winder to see what's the joke. An' de pore boy says, "The mule has split his mouth open laughin' at the horses' tails being cut off."

As I was strollin' along rue ¹ dee vint ¹ blanc,²

I met my comerad Mezou ² Neuf ² Shank.

He said, "Comerad, allez-vous." ²

I say American bucoup.³

He wants to know when are you comin' back.

And then I sing a sweet refrain: —

"I'll come back

When de elephint

Roo'ts [roosts] in de tree.

I'll come back

When de whale

Makes love to de bee.

I'll come back

When the sun

Refuse to shine.

I'll come back

When the cuniac [cognac]

Floats the River Rhine.

I'll come back

When the sun

Turn from white to blue.

I'll come back

When the Yankee boys

Forget about de hobnail shoe.

I'll come back

When the statue of Veen

Execute the skirt-dance.

Then maybe I'll come back to France."

E. C. P.

¹ Pronounced as in English.

² Pronounced as in French.

³ First syllable as in English, second syllable as in French.